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The Spectator

Thursday, September 26, 2024

Volume LXIV
Number III

Publishing the Truth, From Good Motives and For Justifiable Ends

SJP rallies against Israeli bombing of Lebanon and holds vigil for executed Missouri man

by Henry Meisner '26
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

This Tuesday, students gathered on Sadove Terrace to rally against the bombing in Lebanon on Monday by the Israeli Defense Force. The bombing killed at least 569 people and injured at least 1,850 more, according to a report by *The Washington Post*. The protest, organized by Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), involved speeches given by SJP members outside of Sadove. Rally attendees also stood against the execution of Marcellus 'Khaliifah' Williams, a Missouri death row inmate. An emergency vigil was subsequently held at 6:50 p.m., ten minutes before Williams' execution, after the Supreme Court denied his appeal.

"More than 500 people, individuals, people just like you, died yesterday. Someone's precious child, someone's lover, someone's parents, someone's entire world. Think about how losing a single family member, a single friend, affects you. Think about how your world stops when that happens. Now, think about that happening to your entire family, to many, many of your friends, a scale of loss that is multiplied across the nation that is unimaginable. Does it ever occur to you to think: that could have been me?" said Derya Arikan '26 on Tuesday. Speakers at the event argued that detachment from the bloodshed in the Middle East has led to apathy. Following the speeches, students traced out their bodies in chalk along Martin's Way, totaling 50 to represent the 50 children killed in Monday's attacks. The chalk outlines intended to serve as a way for Hamilton students to visualize the number of children dead in Lebanon. "I want every single one of you to sit here with the weight of a body, a dead body," Arikan added.

Diego Inzunza '25 connected the war in Gaza to the execution of Williams, saying, "The state is trying to manufacture our consent in the execution of an innocent man named Marcellus Williams, who today is set to be executed by the state of Missouri…in the very same system that perpetuates needless violence against Black and Brown bodies through the incarceration system, through police brutality, the same systems that are being utilized today to desensitize us to deaths in the Middle East."

As reported by *The Guardian*, Williams was convicted in 2001 for the murder of Lisha Gayle, who was killed by stabbing in 1998. In prison, Williams acted as an iman and wrote poems to express his emotions and beliefs. His execution was initially scheduled for 2015, but was halted days before the set date to further DNA testing on the murder weapon. In August 2017, the execution was postponed again because no DNA from Williams was detected on the knife. Williams' case was under review for clemency until Mike Parson became the governor of Missouri. Parson pushed for Williams to be executed.

Both the family of the victim and Williams' former prosecution believed that he should not have been executed. Furthermore, the jury convicting Williams had one person of color, with six of seven potential Black jurors being dismissed on the grounds of their race, according to *The Innocence Project*. After his final plea for clemency was rejected Tuesday evening by the State Supreme Court, Williams was executed despite objections from his initial prosecutor. This was one of five executions scheduled within a one-week period.

Students gathered outside of Sadove with lit candles to mourn the loss of Williams. A few short speeches were given in the minutes prior to his execution, lamenting the injustice of the situation and condemning the system they felt was responsible for the execution. During this time, a poem by Williams about the struggles and smiles of children in Palestine was read to the crowd. As the bell chimed, indicating that Williams' execution drew near, students went silent in mourning. Some watched the flame of the candle slowly burn through the wax while others shed quiet tears.

After this moment of silence, students were given chalk to write any messages they wished on Martin's Way: "They knew he was innocent they ~~murdered~~ lynched him anyway," "A system of 'justice' would not have killed an innocent man" and "Who cares to care despite being unable to fully relate?" These words were written alongside the traced bodies representing Lebanese children.

On the 17th and 18th of Sept., Israel detonated explosives inside the pagers and walkie-talkies of selected targets in Lebanon, killing 16 Hezbollah members and 12 civilians, as reported by *CNN* and *ABC*, respectively. Five days later, Israel launched an airstrike against Lebanon, sparking SJP's organization of Tuesday's event. This airstrike is an extension of Israel's response to Oct. 7th, when Hamas' attack resulted in the death of 1200 people in Israel and the capturing of several hundred hostages, as reported by *Al Jazeera*. Israel's counter in Gaza has resulted in the death of over 41,000 individuals, including nearly 16,500 children, according to the same *Al Jazeera* report.

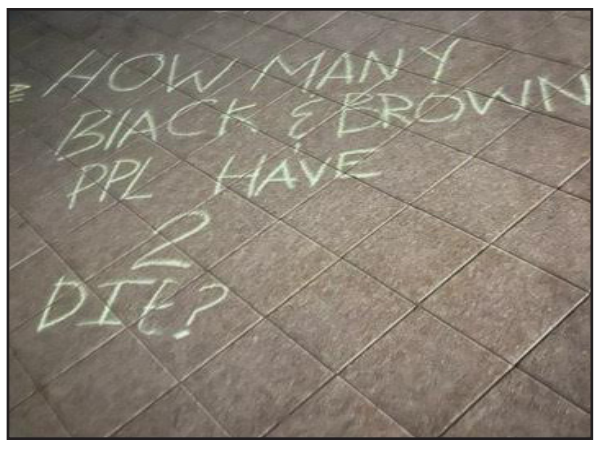

PHOTO BY HENRY MESINER '26

Students gathered at the rally and vigil wrote messages in honor of Lebanese victims and Marcellus Williams along Martin's Way.

Story continued on p. 2

During these developments, the U.S. has remained a firm ally to Israel, *The Council on Foreign Relations* reports. Since Oct. 7, the U.S. has increased its military aid for Israel by $8.7 billion, in addition to the $3.8 billion per year granted by a Memorandum of Understanding.

SJP's remarks during Tuesday's events argued that Hamilton lacks endowment transparency. Inunza said, "We don't know the extent to which we are invested in material support of Israel, the extent to which we are invested in the ongoing destruction and war on Palestine: the genocide of Palestine." Over the years, many student activist groups have campaigned for increased transparency in the investments of the endowment. A prominent movement amongst these was the campaign to have Hamilton divest from fossil fuels, however Hamilton has yet to inform the student body of its investments or confirm its divestment.

As stated on the College's webpage, Hamilton's goals for the endowment are to maintain its real value and increase its purchasing power, but it does not mention any investments that would be off limits due to potential negative impacts on the world. "In line with its mission as an academic institution committed to active citizenship, the College thoughtfully considers environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues as part of its investment process…The inclusion of ESG factors in the investment process is not intended to result in the exclusion of specific investments based on any single factor alone," the College website says in its Investment Responsibility Policy.

SJP emphasized that the focus of its mission does not exist solely in the world outside of the Hill, but within Hamilton College as well. In conversation with *The Spectator*, Inunza took the position that "Hamilton College, as an institution of higher education, as a predominantly white institution, as an institution that is itself a form of settler colonial education existing on Oneida land, where not a single student from Hamilton College that has graduated has ever been a member of the Oneida peoples, Hamilton College itself is an institution that, through its very existence, perpetuates ideas of settler colonization, of white supremacy."

Hamilton College was founded as the Hamilton-Oneida Academy on land originally belonging to the Oneida people as a Christian theological school. As previously reported by *The Spectator*, while the College states that any Oneida student can attend, no Oneida student studying at the College has graduated. In 2022, 64.5% of students enrolled at Hamilton College were non-Hispanic white, according to *Data USA*.

Tuesday's event was the second protest by SJP this semester, with the first being a march for Palestine five days earlier on Thurs., Sept. 19th. Inunza stressed the importance of campus activism, "we always have more work to do, showing up to events like the one here today, keeping Gaza and Palestine in the conversations, in the classroom, in your organizational meetings, in your friend groups."

Rallies can be a way for students to speak their minds about issues affecting themselves and others, and vigils can serve as a way for the community to mourn together. Both the vigil and the rally demonstrated a desire by attendees to keep ongoing global events at the forefront of campus conversations.

September 26, 2024

President Tepper and his Senior Staff host College Update for Family Weekend

by Patrick Sarzynski '28
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Students, their parents, faculty and other members of the Hamilton community gathered in the Chapel on Saturday, Sept. 21 to listen to President Tepper's mid-semester update on what he described as a "whirlwind of activity" so far on the Hill.

President Tepper recognized the fact that he too is new to Hamilton, along with its class of first-years. Jokingly, he asked the audience to lean forward and catch a whiff of the "new-car smell" permeating off of him from the podium. He went on to explain what he felt made the Hamilton community unique compared to institutions that he had previously had the privilege to work at.

He described Hamilton students and faculty as people that approached teaching, learning and discovery like "every day is day one"—people that were "motivated by questions, not by answers." He recognized that many students view learning merely as a way to achieve exceptional grades. However, he feels that once students arrive at Hamilton, they start developing an "exploratory mindset" that allows them to see problems as opportunities to learn, not just steps to getting an A+.

He went on to describe the community as one that "holds the door for one another," both literally and figuratively. He has found that people always seem to smile at one another while they walk by each other on campus, whether they know each other or not. And while students may come to Hamilton from various states, provinces, territories, countries and nationalities, once they arrive on the Hill, they are simply another member of a welcoming, tight-knit community.

He feels that this sense of community has continued to foster healthy political discussion between students. He mentioned a recent community conversation held by the administration to discuss campus discourse. During the event, President Tepper witnessed a conversation between two students—one that was in support of Palestine and another that he assumed was in support of Israel. He said that the two students demonstrated tremendous maturity and respect for each other, despite holding vastly different opinions regarding the ongoing conflict. The two students recognized that it is okay for them to disagree and continued to engage in healthy political discourse.

He overheard one of the students say that while they may disagree, maybe they can still "build something beautiful together." Impressed by their conversation, President Tepper told the audience that this interaction demonstrated Hamilton students' abilities to "disagree without being disagreeable," and that such conversations are made possible by the unique sense of community that is enjoyed by members of Hamilton College. He feels people within the community abide by a people-first principle, which requires active listening, respect, trust and care for each other.

While President Tepper has continued to spend time on campus, connect with the community and engage in meaningful discussions, it has become apparent that the welcoming and caring community is willing to give a helping hand to any newcomer, regardless of their background or values.

PHOTO BY PATRICK SARYNZKI '28

President Tepper and his Senior Staff address Hamilton families in the College Chapel.

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to respect discretion, *The Spectator* and Campus Safety have not disclosed the idenities of the students involved in these reports.

Thurs., Sept. 19

12:22 a.m. Assist—Burke Library: All Night Reading Room

1:13 a.m. Medical Emergency–Campus Safety Building

Fri., Sept. 20

1:20 p.m. Medical Emergency—Emerson Lobby

11:58 p.m. Noise Complaint—Eels House

Sat., Sept. 21

2:50 a.m. Trouble Alarm—Kennedy Arts Center

10:39 a.m. Parking Complaint—Dunham Residence Hall

2:05 p.m. Trouble Alarm—Skenandoa Residence Hall

10:23 p.m. Medical Emergency—Babbitt Residence Hall

11:54 p.m. Medical Emergency—Milbank Residence Hall

Sun., Sept. 22

3:19 p.m. Area Check—C.A. Johnson

5:21 p.m. Medical Emergency—Dunham Residence Hall

6:08 p.m. Concern for Welfare—Commons Dining Facility

6:22 p.m. Area Check—Taylor Science Center

Mon., Sept. 23

9:27 a.m. Medical Emergency—Milbank Residence Hall

Wed., Sept. 25

8:10 a.m. Assist—Sage Ice Rink

EDITORIAL

September 26, 2024

Dear Hamilton Community,

The Spectator's mission statement reads "Publishing the Truth, From Good Motives and For Justifiable Ends." As a student news organization, we aim to promote the importance of freedom of the press on and off campus. While *The Spectator* is the official college newspaper of Hamilton, we acknowledge the value of having multiple outlets of expression accessible to our community. The diversity in student publications enhances the quality of thought of students, faculty and staff alike.

With this in mind, we cannot ignore recent developments threatening freedom of expression in the world. On Sunday morning, Israel raided the bureau of *Al Jazeera* in Ramallah, West Bank, ordering the organization to shut down its office, as reported by *Associated Press*. This move was denounced by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), whose program director stated, "CPJ is deeply alarmed by Israel's closure of *Al Jazeera's* office…Israel's efforts to censor *Al Jazeera* severely undermine the public's right to information on a war that has upended so many lives in the region."

The Spectator finds hostility toward journalism disappointing, though we also note that there are existing restrictions on expression in Gaza and the West Bank. We see this as a stark reminder that not everyone is granted the privilege to have their voices heard. We are further reminded of our responsibility to continue to advocate for the right to free press and expression. We encourage Hamilton students to take every opportunity on the Hill to write, share and communicate. *The Spectator* remains an outlet to do so, as do the several other publications that circulate on our campus. In particular, we welcome news and opinion contributions that address underrepresented issues, regardless of their alignment with the views of *The Spectator's* editorial staff.

Threats to free press worldwide remain concerning. To exclude certain events or perspectives from publicization is a disservice to the ultimate "justifiable end" of news—education. Every Hamilton student should develop a worldview that is rooted in well-rounded, comprehensive and ethical channels of information. These sources have a duty to provide that information, just as readers have a duty to seek it.

Sincerely,
The Spectator Editorial Board

This message reflects the point of view of the majority of* The Spectator's *editorial staff, with twelve members voting in favor and three members abstaining.

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Celebrating 157 years,
we *were first published as* The Hamilton Campus *in 1866.*

The Spectator

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The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national, and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college, and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

About Us

The Hamilton College Spectator, *publication number USPS 612-840, is published weekly by the Hamilton College Student Media Board while classes are in session. For more information e-mail spec@hamilton.edu. Our offices are located on the second floor of the Sadove Student Center. The deadline for advertisements is Monday the week of publication. For further information, please e-mail specads@hamilton.edu.*

September 26, 2024

SJP, FCC and BLSU host Disorientation Week at Hamilton for collaborative activism

by Mia Antonini '26
NEWS CO-EDITOR

Hamilton's Disorientation Week, much like those of other college and university campuses, placed an emphasis on community organization, advocacy and justice. Events included an SJP welcome meeting, an Introduction to Campus politics event, an FCC meeting, a National Day of Action for Palestine outdoor teach-in and a BLSU Welcome Bash. Students were notified of these functions through both campus-wide emails, flyers available across campus spaces and a banner hung over the balcony in Commons Dining Hall.

While other campuses have hosted and participated in Disorientation Weeks, Hamilton's was not hosted in conjunction with other schools. "The phrase 'Disorientation Week' comes from the National SJP [Students for Justice in Palestine], and is part of a larger national week of action around the beginning of school at campuses across America," said Joseph Fandrey '26, a student leader within Hamilton's SJP chapter. He continued, "it's part of a larger idea and pattern, and movement, but it's not necessarily executed directly in contact with other things."

At Hamilton, groups represented in the Disorientation Week programming included SJP, Feminists of Color Collective (FCC) and the Black and Latino Student Union (BLSU), all of whom collaborated in hosting events throughout the week.

In conversation with *The Spectator*, Fandrey explained the background and planning process of Hamilton's Disorientation Week, which took place throughout the week of Sept. 11. In particular, he noted how a significant goal of Disorientation Week is collaboration, inviting student organizations to join in conversation with each other and the student body to highlight common goals and how to achieve them. "The function of Disorientation Week was to bring like-minded people… communities together. Something we've been talking about in our teach-ins and meetings in SJP last semester when we were becoming more public was about the connection between the logic of racism and occupation in Palestine and its connection to America… we decided to work together, because we have common goals and dealing with common issues."

PHOTO BY MIA ANTONINII '26

A poster hung up in Kirner-Johnson building highlights various Disorientation Week events.

While Disorientation Week spanned through the course of five days and multiple events, the planning process was quick: "the span of like a day." Fandrey continued, "We planned all of it in one meeting and then we executed all of it asynchronously…In terms of the planning process, it came together pretty easily. We just all got together right after classes started, representatives from all the organizations got together and said, 'these are some events that we're all planning on doing. This is how we're all going to help each other. We're going to pool our resources. This is how we're going to make it all happen, for our common goals.' It was just really a matter of recognizing, this is all one goal, one thing that we're talking about."

Some events, such as SJP's weekly meeting, were led by a single group but promoted by the other involved organizations, while others were the product of many groups' efforts. For example, Fandrey said, "The Intro Campus Politics Event that we did, that was everyone communicating together and distributing labor together, promoting it together… some of us thought it was one of the best events that we've ever done together."

While SJP has not been on campus for very long, its impact in community organization has been clear. On the founding process of the organization's Hamilton chapter, Fandrey said, "I'd heard about it from a friend who goes to a different school. He'd been very heavily involved in an existing SJP chapter. He said, 'Look into it, bring it here.'" Fandrey continued, "I talked to some people who I knew would be interested, emailed the national chapter, got in contact with them and basically just registered it and then registered it with the school afterwards."

Fandrey described that, "we were very satisfied with [the week]. After every meeting, we had debrief meetings…I just remember feeling like we were all very satisfied."

Representatives of FCC and BLSU did not respond to *The Spectator*'s request for an interview.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @SJP HAMILTON ON INSTAGRAM

Students for Justice in Palestine is a national organization with chapters across campuses.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @FEMINISTSOFCOLORCOLLECTIVE ON INSTAGRAM

Feminists of Color Collective is dedicated to making academia more inclusive at Hamilton.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @BLSU.HAMILTON ON INSTAGRAM

The Black & Latine Student Union was founded in 1968 to create a space of community.

September 26, 2024

Dining hall cup disappearance: one part of Hamilton's new sustainability iniative

by Ava Cargan '27
STAFF WRITER

This school year is the beginning of the Fill It Forward program on campus. Hamilton is attempting to progress sustainability efforts with donations and reusable containers as the community engages with the program. The center of the conversation is around the lack of paper cups. Sustainability Coordinator Jessie Paradis-Stern '26 shared that Hamilton was using and throwing away about 2200 paper cups daily. This was costly and caused environmental damage, as paper cups take a long time to degrade. A Commons Parkhurst employee reports that the cups are about $0.09 each, with a total amount spent on cups at around $45,000, in addition to approximately $50,000 more to handle the landfill waste.

This summer, sustainability interns worked with Parkhurst and sustainability teams to look at companies and solutions to creatively address campus sustainability needs. Paradis-Stern said that the Parkhurst employees were very open to the new program and being taught how it works. The Fill it Forward program has officially been launched on campus and there have been a variety of reactions, both from students and employees.

Fill it Forward was a program chosen to streamline the sustainability process, according to Paradis-Stern. The program works through an app available on phones, making it more convenient for college students. The previous method of handing in lanyards when returning a container posed difficulties: they were lost, not returned, and tracking the return of containers was difficult. Now, all employees and students can use the Fill it Forward app in order to scan into the program. Paradis-Stern also mentions that every time a community member scans into the program, Fill it Forward donates $0.02 to one of the organizations they are partnered with. With the number of people that scan in and out every day, the community contributes to donating to other important causes in addition to initiating new sustainability efforts.

A Commons Parkhurst employee said that "at the beginning, the students were pretty hesitant. I feel like now they have gotten used to it." She said that after the first few times people scanned the QR codes on the containers with the Fill it Forward's borrowing process, "it is actually seamless and an easy process." The McEwen employee said that she personally has mixed feelings about the new program. "I like the program because of the QR codes, which makes it easy to keep track of the boxes and cups," she said. On the other hand, she shared, "I don't like it because of the cups. Instead of replacing the paper cups with ceramic mugs for the dining halls and adding the to-go cups, it's just the to-go cups, which means more cups are being taken out and not returned when they should." Moreover, she explained that there can be struggles with students using the app; she followed up by mentioning that students do prefer the app because it is easier. She said that she sees differing opinions on the program based on how often students use it, consistent with comments from the Commons employee. However, the McEwen employee said that she doesn't like the program because the paper cups were removed, but ceramic mugs were not put in their place for use within the dining hall. She said that now more cups are being taken out and not returned and says this is part of the issue. She said that she also hears students saying that they still want paper cups back.

Now, in collaboration with Administrative Services and Parkhurst, the sustainability office and coordinators were able to open the campus up to the new sustainability efforts, explains Sara Soika, the Environmental Health & Safety Specialist within Hamilton's Sustainability Working Group (SWG). The Fill it Forward app is able to supply students with reusable to-go containers and reusable mugs with the goal of reducing the reliance on single use materials by making access to reusable products easier.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FILL IT FORWARD

Fill it Forward is Hamilton's new program to streamline the sustainability process in campus dining halls. Students can now utilize the app to keep track of reusable, portable containers. T

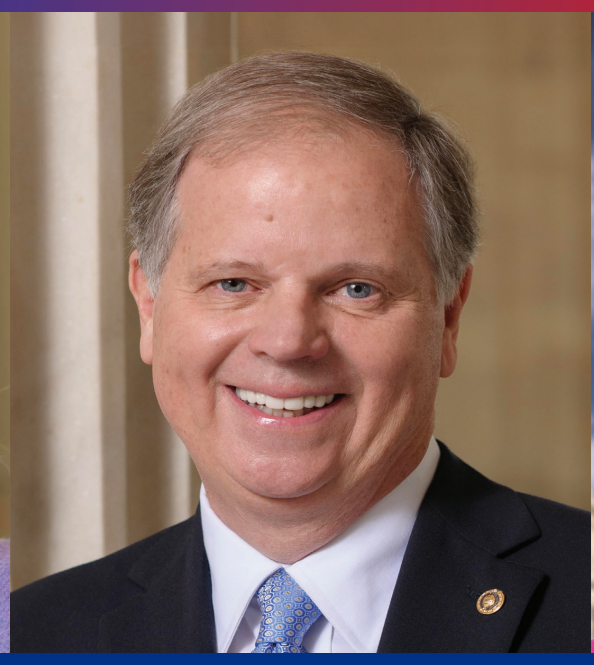
SCREENSHOT COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE YOUTUBE

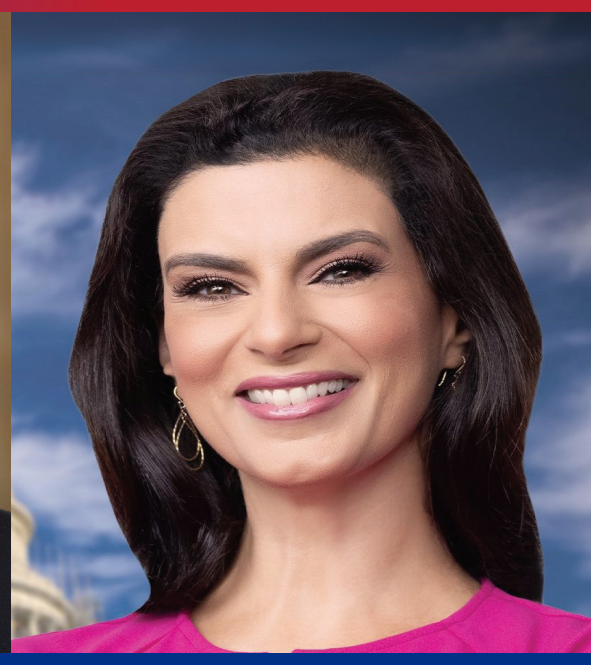
The Hamilton College mascot demonstrates proper use of the reusable containers supplied in the Commons and McEwen dining halls.

COMMON GROUND

Cross-boundary dialogue on hot-button political issues.

SHOULD THE U.S. HAVE A MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM?





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Host of C-SPAN's *Washington Journal*

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 3

7:30 P.M.
CHAPEL
hamilton.edu/commonground

Hamilton

RECEPTION *with* COMMON GROUND SPEAKERS
9:15 P.M.
THE LITTLE PUB
Open to campus and the public

The College is grateful to Mary Helen and Robert Morris '76, P'16,'17; and Lori and David Hess '77 for their generous support of Common Ground.

Common Ground is a multi-format program to help prepare students for active citizenship. Designed to explore cross-boundary political thought and complex social issues, Common Ground brings highly respected thought leaders to the Hamilton campus to participate in small classroom dialogues and large event discussions. Topics intertwined with the College's curriculum are chosen to foster critical thinking and holistic examination of difficult and often contentious national and global policy issues.

September 26, 2024

Carolyn Levin worked as ceramics apprentice this past summer in Valencia

by Sarafina Madden '26
FEATURES EDITOR

This summer, Carolyn Levin '26, used the funds from an Emerson grant to travel to Valencia, Spain, where she worked as an ceramics apprentice under Valencia ceramicist, Ana Illueca. A Bio-chemistry and Art student with aspirations of becoming a reconstructive surgeon, Levin yearned to hone her craft as a ceramicist and refine her artistic voice through the traditional master-apprentice relationship.

Levin explained that the objective of her project was to "examine the traditional master-apprentice relationship in ceramics." Reflecting on her experience, Levin explained: "I was able to understand how it was to experience such an intimate relationship with a traditional ceramic master, which is something that I had craved for my entire time as a novice and pupil."

Levin insisted that all art students should "foster a close relationship with their master, or teacher. You have to create a close bond with whoever you are learning from so they can teach you the tricks of the trade really effectively." Beyond the artistic sphere, Levin also commented that there is a real need for creative thinking and apprentice- master relationships in other professional arenas, such as the corporate business world.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROLYN LEVIN

Levin created plates during her apprenticeship this past summer in Valencia.

Levin also explained the value in studying art as a pre-med student. "I actually think that art is extremely critical to my practice as a physician because I want to be a reconstructive surgeon professionally. All my art, all my life has been very focussed on the human body. I create bulbous forms that represent curvature on the human body. I have also graduated from creating more sculptural pieces–hand building out of plaster and silicon that accurately represent human anatomy," Levin commented.

Beyond the clear connections between Levin's interest in reconstructive surgery and ceramics, she also noted that her training as a ceramicist and art student has supported her scientific learning more generally: "I encourage anyone to exercise their creative mind. I can picture three molecules from organic chemistry in my mind, the biological pathways in biology. I can illustrate these things and make them very tangible to me."

In addition to her work in the studio, Levin explained that she had made it a goal to immerse herself in the social scene of Valencia. "I was excited to make a social circle of my own. I really felt that I was able to cultivate a sense of independence. Having a job that was all my own and a social life that was all my own…I explored cultural scenes, I went to museums." Levin articulated that she "felt very much transformed," after her experience in Valencia.

Levin's primary project was creating uniform sets of dinner plates dessert bowls, also known as "series" for a restaurant in Valencia. Each of the series had to be identical and uniform without any imperfections. Making these series of plates or bowls demanded an immense degree of precision, attention to detail and process and patience. "The master went through with me how to make the exact curve on each piece look exactly like, how to get the inside and outside to match." Levin explained that she initially felt a huge amount of pressure to make her pieces perfect the first time around but was relieved when she discovered that her master actually encouraged making mistakes and saw failures as part of the artistic process.

Levin explained that she had to get used to throwing away her pieces: "I threw out more than I kept." Levin noted, "I had a greater goal of creating a uniform series and once you create one successfully, those failures along the way are just demonstrations of how you've perfected your craft."

PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROLYN LEVIN

Levin glazed her pottery with creative designs.

Levin said that she grew up making pottery with her twin sister in New York City–"we sold our pieces on the streets of New York City." She expressed her passion for her art as experimental and innovative: "art has given me this sense that, if I want to do something, I am going to find a way to do it because I am innovative enough and I am creative enough because I am skilled and I have experience creating something with steps that I've come up with."

Levin will present her work from her summer on Thursday, September 26th on the second floor of KTSA. Hamilton students should consider bringing their academic visions to life by applying for an Emerson grant. The pre-application is due on January 24th and the full application, February 19th. More information about Emerson funding can be found on Hamilton College's website.

September 26, 2024

Graduate students explain their careers in Creative Writing and Literature at panel in Red Pit

by Meg Stroup '26
FEATURES EDITOR

On Tuesday, Sept. 24, the Literature and Creative Writing Departments of Hamilton College invited graduate students who pursued relevant careers to speak in the Red Pit. With a list of alumni including queen of the young adult fantasy novel world Sarah J. Maas, revered poet Peter Meinke and head screenwriter of *The Office* Paul Lieberstein, Hamilton has created leading creatives and writers. Gathered around a table in the Red Pit, Hamilton College alums and visiting professors, all of whom had Masters in Fine Arts or were enrolled in PhD programs, imparted their wisdom and their professional paths to a crowd of students. The goal of the panel was for writers to share the stories of their careers and give advice to aspiring writers, journalists and those interested in making writing into a career.

Samodh Porawagamage, visiting professor in Hamilton's Department of Literature, opened the panel. Porawagamage writes about social and military issues, including Sri Lankan Civil War, poverty, the residual impacts of colonialism and the impacts of climate change. He has published two poetry collections: *becoming sam* and *All the Salty Sand in Our Mouths,* where he combines his passion for creativity with important social issues.

Porawagamage received an undergraduate degree in Sri Lanka, and then he moved to the United States to pursue his MFA from Wichita State, which he graduated early from to take a gap year and recently graduated from his PhD at Texas Tech University. He was initially interested in journalism; however, he felt journalism was too objective for his interests so shifted his work towards more creative work. As a current visiting professor in the Department of Literature, Porawagamage has had the opportunity to Creative Writing professor at Hamilton College, Patrick Caoile also participated in the panel. Caoile explained that he initially planned on being an English teacher, having majored in Literature and minored in secondary education. Caoile pursued a masters in English with a concentration in writing. His master's thesis was more research based than creative and allowed him to dive deeper into his interest in media. Caoile's thesis was about Christopher Nolan's Star of Night Trilogy: "I loved pop culture and did not know if I wanted to pursue creative writing as a profession when I did my masters. That was more so going into my second year where I decided to apply to PhD creative writing programs," he articulated. In thinking about the next steps for his career, Caoile explained that sought PhD programs that offered creative writing concentrations and creative dissertations. He ultimately completed his PhD in Louisiana last year.

Another panelist, Hamilton alum, Sarah Sgro, majored in Creative Writing at Hamilton. During her time on the Hill, she worked for the Writing Center. Following graduation, Sgro focused on developing her own writing and creating a robust portfolio of her creative work. She ultimately applied to internships at literary magazines and began by working virtually while she drafted a collection of her own poems for her MFA application.

Rounding out the panel, Sgro '14 received her MFA from the University of Mississippi. Sgro reflected on her experience in Mississippi: "I applied with a lot of narrative poems and when I arrived there my writing suddenly changed. I was very inspired by what other people were writing. I think it is very good to know what you are interested in and who your writing is in conversation with when you apply, but you are definitely not tethered to that throughout your program." Sgro then went on to receive her PhD in Literature from SUNY Buffalo, while still pursuing creative writing and undertaking a new interest in digital media.

Fellow alum Katie Naughton '14 is currently a PhD student at SUNY Buffalo. She recently published a book of poetry called *The Real Ethereal*, and her other published works include *Study* and *A Second Singing*. Naughton pursued an MFA around five years after graduating, and during the gap she gained valuable experience working in textbook publishing at Oxford University Press in New York City. Coincidentally, Naughton's co-worker at Oxford University Press was a poet who introduced her to a scene of other poets which was an inspiring presence for her. Following her time working in New York, Naughton moved to teach in Thailand for a year. She then applied for MFAs, ultimately attending a three year program at Colorado State.

Although initially unsure of the specific direction she would travel in the writing world, Naughton explained that she discovered her "aesthetic" during her time pursuing an MFA in Colorado. "The work I was submitting resonated with the people reading it. Colorado has a little more of an experimental bend. There's less of an emphasis on narrative or lyric poetry and a little more formal or intentional experimentation," she said. Naughton gained a lot of teaching experience during her years studying in Colorado. She also reflected that there was so much to learn from professors and fellow students during her MFA, when she had initially thought just as much would be learned from writing on her own and developing her style.

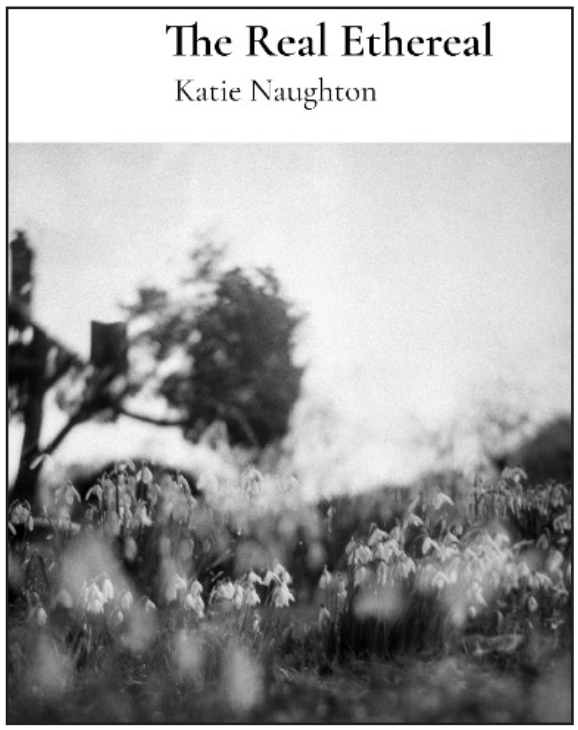


PHOTO COURTESY OF KATIE NAUGHTON

Katie Naughton '08 published her collection of poems called *The Real Ethereal* this past August.

The Literature and Creative Writing Department delegated the last fifteen minutes for students to ask questions. One member of the audience asked the panelists to share wisdom about applying to MFA programs. Sgro advised that those interested in the field should start looking into and drafting applications for these programs as they approach senior year, as well as engaging with the portfolios of fellow applicants.

All of the panel's participants serve as testaments to the fact that the path to becoming a professional writer is far from smooth or clear. However, all the panelists' stories reveal that with passion, a strong work-ethic and nurturing mentors, professional writing emerges as a viable, dynamic and incredibly rewarding career.

September 26, 2024

Hamilton should do away with Greek life

by Matthew Collins '25
OPINION EDITOR

After three years of bouncing between Glenview and both Bundies, I am finally happy with my on-campus housing. Skenandoa House is a comfortable place to live, with a lovely carpeted floor and (mostly) functional air conditioning. We shall see how I find the trek up the Hill once the incline inevitably freezes over, but for now, I am satisfied.

I confess that I had never heard of Skenandoa before my roommate suggested lodging there, and so I spent a considerable amount of time reading up on the dorm before returning to campus this August. Among the details that had eluded me was the house's original purpose: as a gathering place for the college's Psi Upsilon fraternity chapter. Psi Upsilon utilized the building for its own purposes as recently as thirty years ago, until a dramatic change in Hamilton's housing policy. With the Residential Life Decision of 1995, Hamilton mandated that all current and future students live on campus. This mandate theoretically affected any and all students who wished to live outside a Hamilton dorm room, but the school's unambiguous targets were its fraternities and sororities. Not only did the decree forbid its Greek life organizations from finding room and board off the Hill, but it also unceremoniously kicked them out of on-campus housing, subsequently repurposing the seized buildings for student housing, including my lovely little dorm room.

My gratitude towards the thoughtfulness of the Hamilton administration during the mid-Nineties might be anecdotally confined, but the guiding principles and commitments of the decision—academic integrity and cross-cutting social opportunity—remain as vital to the mission of the American college as ever, if not more so. Consequently, there should be no doubt that the American collegiate system would be substantially better off were it to entirely eliminate all traces of Greek life. Given the already enfeebled state of fraternities and sororities here, Hamilton is in a uniquely privileged position to spearhead such a movement; it is time to take the next step and expel these organizations from the college permanently.

One of the pernicious aspects of Greek life is the shield of philanthropy they use to portray themselves as beneficial to society at large. Indeed, some of these organizations explicitly present their charity fundraising initiatives as their *raisons d'être*, efforts which are certainly commendable at face value. However, such rodomontade serves to obscure the matter of whether the role they play is one that *only the*y can play. It is naïve at best to uphold the philanthropy of fraternities and sororities as societally important without considering inculcating alternative sources of charity in one's community, likely without the negative externalities of which Greek life is part and parcel. Since their positive impact is replicable outside of a fraternity or sorority setting, the philanthropic argument they put forward is ultimately a self-serving one, deceptive in the way it frames their purposes.

On a more visceral note, Greek life is also fundamentally dangerous, especially for female students. Alcohol can flow dangerously freely at fraternity and sorority parties, which are responsible, directly or indirectly, for a significant number of what the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism estimates are over 1,500 college students who die from alcohol-related injuries every year. As if these numbers are insufficiently sobering, the NIAAA also finds that nearly 700,000 assaults take place every year on American college campuses as a result of alcohol consumption. It should also be noted that a significant number of these assaults are of a sexual nature, of which women have historically been and continue to be the primary victims.

Since fraternities and sororities explicitly disallow women and men respectively from joining their numbers, they implicitly mark each other as fundamentally apart, thereby reinforcing a structure of gendered othering. Cross-cutting socialization among members of these groups is thereby largely restricted to party settings, where the combination of this othering and alcohol use creates a staggering potential for sexual violence in a college community. If we collectively care one iota about keeping Hamiton students alive and preemptively keeping them from becoming assault victims, then the continued presence of these organizations on campus is intolerable.

The legacy of Greek life's ingrained sexism should be especially repulsive to students attending this particular institution; after all, Hamilton is famously two colleges grafted into one. Kirkland College's 1978 incorporation remains one of the most influential events in Hamilton's history, as it still exerts a considerable amount of influence over life at Hamilton today (such as in its surviving cultural extracurricular programs at Hamilton, particularly in the world of music). Considering the gendered segregation of Greek life and the astounding quantity of sexual violence such organizations can beget, I fail to see how any self-respecting believer in the equality of all sexes can possibly justify their perpetual presence at Hamilton in particular.

The most repugnant feature of fraternities and sororities, however, is the structural and social elitism that they necessarily uphold. The restrictive processes by which they choose their members allows for them to stifle socioeconomic mobility on campus. Member dues weed out the lower classes from participation, and rushing and pledging allow selective brothers and sisters to segregate the socially awkward and the physically unattractive. There are already scores of articles highlighting the reticence of Greek life organizations to accept members outside of the WASPish crucible in which they were forged, yet even if they were to entirely eliminate these demographic prejudices, the elite social status these organizations confer upon their members would still taint their selection proceedings.

The creation of and access to new, higher social strata that Greek life breeds allows them to exert undue influence over the limited possibilities left for the rest of the student population. If social gatherings are dominated by fraternities and sororities, they are able to explicitly sequester social opportunity from the less financially well-off students at whatever institution they populate. In addition, the networking advantage that fraternities and sororities provide, whereby brothers and sisters can gain a competitive edge in the job market, means that the Faustian bargain of Greek life participation persists long after college graduation, potentially stomping out economic mobility for years into the future. Such an arrangement is morally untenable.

One of the more striking aspects of the Residential Life Decision of 1995 is the number of indignant alumni who indicated their refusal to financially contribute to Hamilton going forward, specifically citing the college's targeting of Greek life as. I can scarcely imagine more perspicuous proof that these organizations rest squarely within the domain of economic and social anti-egalitarianism, and that a college committed to social and sexual equality, academic seriousness and the breakdown of class barriers must cleanse its campus of fraternities and sororities forthwith.

There can be no doubt the Hamilton would become a materially and morally superior space were it to permanently do away with fraternities and sororities. Through finally ridding this institution of Greek life, every one of its students can look forward to a more auspicious and egalitarian future.

September 26, 2024

The lunacy of V.A.R. in soccer

by Nicolai Tolstoy '27
OPINION EDITOR

In the summer of 2024, sport events were far from few. From cycling to soccer, people sat in front of the screens watching their favorite team, or person, compete. In Europe, the European Football Championship took place across Germany. As I watched the matches, I was repeatedly faced with the endless V.A.R., meaning Video Assistant Referee, that took place when a goal or foul occurred. After players had scored, they barely celebrated. Instead, they waited for the call of a person sitting in a room and analyzing if what just happened was a foul or not. Now, every dramatical goal-scoring moment that might define a country's sport history had to wait for V.A.R. To me, this is not how soccer should be played. Emotion, is what sport is mostly built upon, has been thrown out the window because of technology such as V.A.R.

V.A.R is a technology officiating system that intends to help on-field referees make accurate decisions during critical junctures of a soccer match. While this might sound good, soccer is not as clear as people might want it to be. In other sports, such as tennis, we see similar technologies utilized to achieve a fairer game. However, the difference between soccer and tennis is that tennis utilizes a system called Hawk-Eye that simply tracks if the ball was in or out. In soccer, the game is much more complicated. For example, handball, a definition in soccer that seems to change every game, or the process of red and yellow cards signaling a foul, are both events which are far from clear. Therefore, the search for perfection in a soccer match is impossible, and having all those decisions, such as handball and cards signalling fouls, decided by someone sitting in a room watching everythin, is not what this game is about.

In 1986, during one of the most watched sporting events, the World Cup, Argentina played England in the quarter-finals. Diego Maradona, regarded by many as the most influential soccer player of all time, scored a goal with what appeared to be his hand. The referees did not have a clear view and therefore allowed the goal, giving Argentina a 1 - 0 lead in a crucial moment. Looking back, the goal was illegal because Maradona used his hand to score. However, when Maradona was asked about the incident, he stated that a little help from the hand of God made the goal. Years later, the goal is still remembered today as the "hand of god." With V.A.R., however, this goal would have probably been denied.

To me, events like these are what makes soccer a great sport, anything can happen. The sport is both played and refereed by people, so implementing all possible modern technology will only stifle the human touch we all adore in the game. While modern technology should and will have a place in industries around the world, the soccer field is one place where it should be limited. People need to realize that emotions and mistakes are always a part of our life, especially in sports. We live in a world where we will soon lose our own voice to tools like Chat-GPT, a one-stop oracle for solving all of our own mistakes. Soccer, however, is one example of something we can try to save from losing its beautiful voice of mistakes to the perilous of V.A.R.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SPORTING NEWS

V.A.R stands for Video Assistant Referee.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CNN

The famous match between England and Argentina where Maradona's "Hand of God" goal took place.

Choir, Orchestrsa and Jazz Ensemble dazzle families

by Jacob Sam '28
A&E CONTRIBUTER

Classy. Elegant. Elite. Hamilton's esteemed orchestra, choir and jazz ensemble tore the house down this past Saturday for parents and students alike. Dressed in a chic all-black uniform, Hamiltonian musicians tore the stage with a powerful, moving performance.

First under the golden lights of Wellin Hall was the orchestra. Heather Buchman, lead conductor, held the room as she walked us through what we would be feeling. 19th century German composer Robert Schumann marked the school year's first orchestral performance. Performers had only had three weeks worth of rehearsals, but they held steadfast to Schumann's triumphant and emphatic flow. After Buchman's presentation of the pieces, a brief pause took over before nearly 50 Hamilton instruments and bodies worked in synchronization, flooding every corner of the room. It was like a hurricane. From my seat I was in the direct line of violinists, and their bows jittered in a way that was both violent and graceful. Something I noted was the way people's matching black dress shirts crinkled as they worked their respective roles. It was as if they worked with the music, and it gave each individual performer a dynamic feel as they sat, deeply concentrated on strings, on brass buttons, on the sound.

Eric Chung '28, cellist, gave his take on his cohort's rendition of Schumann: "First movement is like you're going through a wavy ocean, and it's stormy and stuff, y'know? And the second movement is like, you're out of the storm now. You're just chilling. You're making it home."

After the stage was cleared, the Hamilton choir filed in. Their long, black frames loomed semi-ominously, waiting in reverence as Charlotte Botha gave the opening remarks. After a yearlong sabbatical, the choir director addressed the room in a friendly manner all the while serving distinguished music professional. The choir opened their songbooks and began to sing. Again, I wondered how it felt working for such a unified force. Together, they represented distinct vocal ranges that danced around each other. Their choir books, with white sheet music spilling over the manuscript frame, gave the appearance of every singer holding a dove with its wings outstretched.

After their angelic performance of Lux Aurumque by Eric Whitacre, Botha turned her attention back to the crowd to talk some about the history and place of American Choir. This coming spring semester, Hamilton Choir will make their debut in Ireland, repping the states in all fashions, but with a particular interest in gospel music. Gospel music developed and defined by Southern Black religious communities continues to be a hallmark of American culture, and thus Hamilton will be showcasing its beauty across the pond. The now-songbookless choir snapped along as the atmosphere transformed from mystical serenity to a spirited, soulful buoyancy. Botha specifically ordered the crowd to jump, to yell, to cry and my only complaint was that the crowd did NOT deliver in this regard.

Lastly was the jazz ensemble. Doc Woods, Jazz Ensemble Director, introduced himself and his students as the final performances of the night. And they wasted no time jumping right into the swing of things. Standing at only eighteen performers, they were the smallest group of the night by far, but those numbers meant nothing in terms of their impact. If you listened closely, you could hear the piano, the saxophone, the electric guitar (which I didn't anticipate in a jazz ensemble), the clarinet, the tuba and all the other amazingly complicated, beautiful instruments that I have not got names for. Due to their smaller grouping, you could be sure that every single performer had put the work in; there was no faking it 'til you made it in the jazz ensemble! And with such a diverse mill of apparatuses, there was no conductor for them to surround. Instead, they sat closer to the edge than any other and poured their hearts into the crowd head-on. Everyone slaughtered their solos despite the aforementioned three weeks worth of rehearsal time.

On behalf of the audience, I'd like to thank the Hamilton Music Department's dedicated staff and students for fantastic work!

PHOTO COURTESY OF LSI ONLINE

The parents of Hamilton College got a taste of the college's talents with Choir, Orchestra and Jazz Ensemble's performances.

Playwright Stephen Adly Guirgus comes to Hamilton

by Sylvia Woodbury '27
STAFF WRITER

The actor and Pulitzer-prize winning playwright Stephen Adly Guirgis was made, not born, a writer. Throughout his recent talk, held last Thursday evening in the KTSA auditorium, Guirgis maintained that he writes in order to act, and that he doesn't particularly like writing. He authored his first one-act play at the behest of his friend John Ortiz, one of the founders of LAByrinth Theater Company in New York City, of which Guirgis was also a seminal member. The company has since fostered a range of stars, among them Liza Colón-Zayas, who recently became the first Latina to win an Emmy for Best Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series; Eric Bogosian, who won a Pulitzer in 1987 for his play *Talk Radio*, and also appears in *Interview with the Vampire*, *Succession* and *Uncut Gems*; Oscar-winner Sam Rockwell, *The Green Mile*, *Three Billboards Outside of Ebbing, Missouri*, *Jojo Rabbit*; and the late, great Philip Seymour Hoffman, who directed half a dozen of Guirgis's plays, including *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, *The Little Flower of East Orange*,and *Our Lady of 121st Street*. All are multitalented powerhouses with still-untapped potential, but not great names: for the most part, they have been doing quietly, subtly and assiduously what bigger stars have been doing more obstreperously.

During his talk, Guirgus synopsized his career and oeuvre through a variety of anecdotes regarding his friends and colleagues. His plays, too, are decentralized — no single character dominates; instead, cacophonous voices clash, overlap, and only sometimes, and then often incompletely, reconcile. No such animus besets LAByrinth, which, unlike other artistic collectives, seems united more by genuine friendship rather than stylistic commonality. The group's ethos: to work together and to work hard. "Even if you're successful, if you don't have anyone around you, you're going to fall apart," Guirgis said. In actuality, opportunities don't materialize from thin air. We get by with a little help from our friends. While filming the Dick Cheney biopic *Vice*, Sam Rockwell (who played George W. Bush) had Guirgis' trailer upgraded and relocated next door to his. On another occasion, Rockwell refused to replace Gurgis when he lost his role in an indie movie. And in return? "When we were struggling," Guirgis said, "I cast my people."

Guirgis' descriptions conferred an aura of scrappy, mutualistic resourcefulness on the troupe. Sheer talent matters less than adaptability, and adaptability is honed by necessity. In college, Guirgis wrote papers for Ortiz in exchange for sneakers; when Ortiz needed an original play for the then-nascent LAByrinth to produce, he asked Guirgis to write it. And so the aspiring actor was "forced" to become a playwright, and whatever brilliance ensued (a Pulitzer for *Between Riverside* and *Crazy*, six Tony Award nominations for *The Mother-f****r With the Hat*) was the result of dedication and tenacity. Perhaps it is this necessity, the ability to shapeshift according to what you need and want most, that is the essence of acting. Maybe it's acting all the way down, all of us molding ourselves into one persona in order to become somebody else. Maybe the reason why Guirgis is a gifted writer is because he was a gifted actor first.

But, then again, maybe "gifted" is the wrong word. In college, Guirgis spent 5½ years sampling different disciplines — from English to journalism to poli-sci to law — before finally majoring in theater. It's daunting to pursue a "career in the arts," but it's even more frightening to contend with the fear of trying, and perhaps failing, to become who you are meant to be. "If you love it, go for it. But go with your eyes open," said Guirgis. He graduated from SUNY Albany in 1992, the same year LAByrinth was founded. Guirgis then spent two years studying acting under Bill Esper. After college, Guirgis paid the bills bussing dishes (he was an aspiring waiter) and delivering papers. Eyes open, indeed. Guirgis' worst job was touting outside a bar—inside an alligator costume. On one occasion, he was beaten up by a couple of drunk "yuppies" who wouldn't leave his costume alone. "Sometimes," Guirgis continued, "it should cost you something to do what you do."

Years, time, effort: the cost of "doing what you do" is priceless. When do we "make it?" Is the process all there is? In Guirgis' plays, certainly. Eschewing tidy conclusions in favor of hinting at multiple, undefinable possibilities, good and bad, his oeuvre is especially concerned with the ceaseless difficulty of becoming. Guirgis has an ear for textured colloquial speech and an eye for idiosyncratic characterization. His plays satirize, and endear us to, our human hypocrisies, indulgences and painful self-delusions. His characters are often the down-and-out and dispossessed: addicts, drug dealers and convicts seeking forgiveness or growth or connection. His comedic dialogue, in all its blithe, witty vulgarity, usually has tragic overtones, and animosity between characters belies a throbbing woundedness at the heart of their relationships. Armor is only needed to protect the tender flesh underneath. At a certain point in his plays, what is veiled by witticisms and banter is laid bare—shame, love, cruelty and deep, unending hurt. Our interpersonal relationships often scar us, but far worse than the pain we inflict on each other is the agony of isolation. Though the revelation of emotional truths is not a substitute for stability or healing—we cannot always save ourselves—it is a step in the right direction. Where do we go from there? Who knows, but let's do it together. I'm going where you're going.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WINDHAM CAMPBELL PRIZES

Stephen Adly Guirgus has been a major proponent of LAByrinth's prosperous development.

PRESIDENT TEPPER'S INAUGURATION

- SATURDAY, SEPT. 28 -

GENERAL EVENTS TIMELINE

8-11 AM
WELCOME AND INFORMATION CENTER
KJ 1st floor

10:30 AM
INVESTITURE CEREMONY
Margaret Bundy Scott Field House

12:00 PM
CAMPUS PICNIC LUNCH
Dunham Green Tent

12-4 PM
STUDENT PERFORMANCES
(A capella, HEAT, and more)
Lawn Adjacent to Dunham Green Tent

1:30 PM
STUDENT DOCENT-LED TOUR OF *MENAGERIE: ANIMALS IN ART FROM THE WELLIN MUSEUM*
Wellin Museum of Art

September 26, 2024

New Student-Made App, Fanstand, Hopes to Boost Hamilton Athletic Attendance

by Caroline Cornely '27
SPORTS EDITOR

Hamilton Athletics has partnered with students to create a new app to help increase attendance at athletic events. The app, called FanStand, is a points system in which students who download the app and attend games earn points that can be redeemed for official Hamilton merchandise at various redemption points later in the year. The merchandise is not finalized but according to founder Joe Simeone '26 is set to include items like "student athletics branded shirts, water bottles and other items."

These items will not replace traditional giveaways, like Citrus Bowl shirts but are additional chances for free merchandise. Currently, the app focuses on Hamilton College Athletic events, as Student Athletics funds the app, so club sports such as water polo and rugby are not included in the program.

The creators made clear this was not just a redemption service but a new way to interact with athletics on campus. "It shows all games on campus, with location, time and opponent" something Simeone points out is difficult to find on Hamiton's own Athletics website. The hope is to make games more accessible to students. "As athletes we never know what other games are going on around campus" explained Ben Ingram '25, something the creators hope to fix with these new features.

The idea started late last year in a SAAC (Student-Athlete Advisory Committee) meeting and grew from there. A team of five heads the project, all being track and field student-athletes working on this app. The app will continue to make improvements as the season continues. "We aim to focus on Hamilton," says Simeone as he emphasized that "[Fanstand] is not like one of the big tech companies in California, we are on campus listening to feedback."

Features in the works include in-app roosters and guides explaining how the sport is played, however the team is open and ready for all feedback and suggestions. The app is not just for free stuff, it is about bringing together a Hamilton community. The support the app has received has been incredible but "not surprising" since "that's what Hamilton does" explained Simeone.

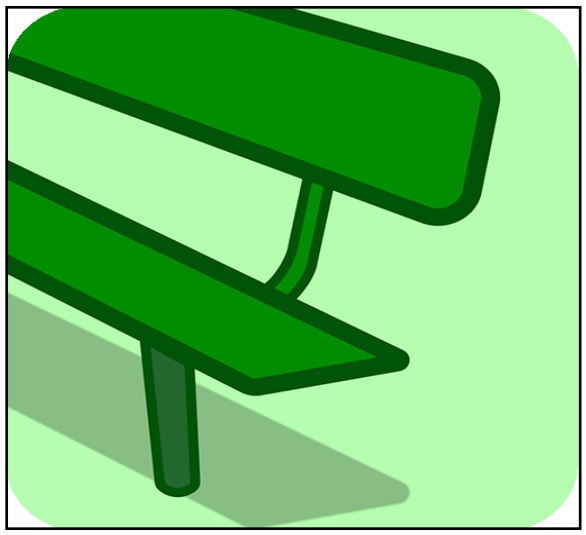


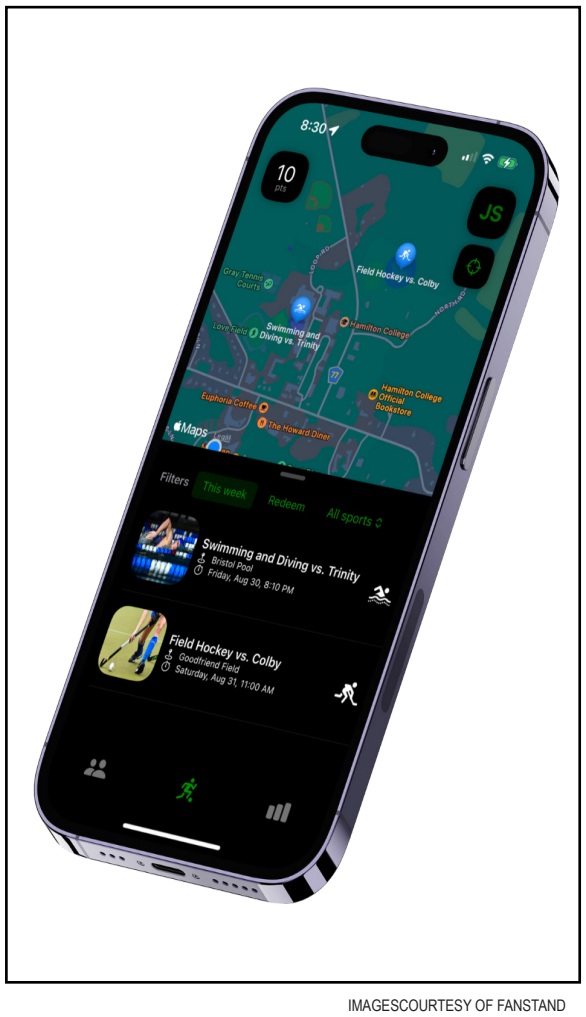
IMAGE COURTESY OF FANSTAND

The Fanstand app, crafted by Hamilton students, is available for download on mobile devices.

The current developers are aware of their impending graduation- as such they have begun to train the new students to keep the app alive. The group has started recruiting the next generation, "no previous experience necessary" Alex Badami '26, the lead iOS Developer explained. "Most of us were inexperienced when we started," Badami said of the group, and because of this, they didn't want this to be an obstacle for others. This training and community is what the developers are most proud of. Not the app itself but what it stands for, an idea being made real and the relationship and growth it has caused along the way.

At the end of the day, a group of friends came together with an idea to make Hamilton athletics better and stuck with it. Early data suggests that this may be increasing turnout but Simeone warned that "it's too early to tell, especially since most of our data has been from in person marketing."

No matter the outcome, the app has already had positives within the Hamilton community. It has strengthened friendships, allowed new ways for students to learn and improve coding and other skills and may even make student athletics campus hotspots again.



IMAGESCOURTESY OF FANSTAND

Two example displays of the Fanstand app demonstrate what users will see when they use the app at a Hamilton College athletic event.

September 26, 2024

Hamilton football struggles in home opener

by Alex Wagner ’28
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

On family weekend, Hamilton football suffered a tough 21-7 loss against the Amherst Mammoths, bringing their season record to 0-2. After struggling last week, losing 42-7 to Williams in the season opener, the Continentals were looking to bounce back in their home opener and tally their first win against a defense-led Amherst team looking to build off a strong week one performance.

Hamilton took an early 7-0 lead in the first quarter when quarterback Luke Kurzum ’27 capped off a 9-play, 75-yard drive with a 4-yard rushing touchdown. Amherst’s offense started sluggish with multiple drive-killing penalties and crucial turnovers, including a lost fumble and a momentum-changing interception by Hamilton’s Kyle Bratcher ’26.

Coming out of the half, the Mammoths turned to their run game, wearing down the Continentals' defense, opening up the playbook, which allowed them to take control of the second half. Amherst methodically marched down the field, where quarterback Mason Morrow ’26 rolled out of the pocket and fired a 12-yard pass to Owen Gaydos ’25 to tie the game 7-7.

PHOTO COURTESY OFJOSH MCKEE

Luke Kurzum ’27 makes a run en route to a Continentals loss last week.

PHOTO COURTESY OFJOSH MCKEE

Tighe Hoey ’25 breaks up an Amherst pass for a near interception.

Hamilton’s offensive struggles continued with back-to-back costly three-and-outs, allowing the Mammoths to dominate time of possession. Once again, Amherst drove down the field 81 yards, predominantly running the ball and mixing in highly effective pass plays. They were able to punch in another touchdown as running back Demitrius Smith ’27 broke to the outside of the field and ran down the sideline for a 28-yard touchdown, giving Amherst a 14-7 lead with 5:28 remaining in the third quarter.

The Mammoths continued their defensive pressure, recording several sacks, and looked poised on offense. In the fourth quarter, Amherst once again drove down the field and was looking to kick a field goal, which would have stretched their lead to 10 points and made it a two-possession game and most likely putting the game on ice. But Hamilton’s special teams produced a huge block, and their offense regained possession with a chance to tie. But the Continentals’ offensive possession stalled with a failed 4th down attempt.

With their defense’s help, Hamilton got the ball back again late in the fourth quarter in a seemingly do-or-die drive. The Continentals seemed to rediscover their first-quarter offense, decisively moving the ball downfield. At midfield, Kurzum escaped the pocket and scrambled to pick up big yardage before getting hit by Amherst’s Anthony Leneghan ’25, who jarred the ball loose. The ball was recovered by Amherst’s Jeb Allen ’27, to seal a game-ending fumble.

On the next drive, the Mammoths were in field goal range, looking to run the clock out as they faced a 4th and 12. To the crowd’s surprise, they elected to forgo the field goal and go for it. Morrow chucked the ball down the right sideline to his receiver, Sam Gerber ’26, who leaped over the Continental defender and hauled in the 24-yard pass for a touchdown to seal the win for Amherst.

The game’s team stats reflect Amherst’s domination. The Mammoths had 314 yards of offense compared to the Continentals’ 200 yards. Specifically, Amherst recorded 108 yards rushing and held Hamilton to just 30 yards. Hamilton’s Chester Boynton ’27 was the Continentals’ primary source of offensive production, with a stellar ten receptions for 95 yards. Amherst’s Morrow was fantastic with 22/33 passing, recording 206 yards in the air with two touchdowns and only one interception.

Saturday’s loss puts Hamilton at the bottom of the NESCAC standings. The Continentals will travel to an 0-2 Bowdoin on Saturday, Sept. 28, at 1 p.m. Hamilton, vying for their first win after a sluggish start to the season, will turn to its offense, hoping for more production against a Bowdoin defense that conceded 39 points on Saturday.